



Office of the Governor

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNOR

PRESS RELEASE

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Gov. Schwarzenegger Proclaims State of Emergency in El Dorado County, Asks U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to Designate Two Additional California Counties Disaster Areas

Gov. Schwarzenegger issued the following proclamation today adding El Dorado County to the list of counties to receive emergency assistance resulting from severe freezing conditions. Within the last two weeks, the Governor proclaimed a state of emergency in the counties of Imperial, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Clara, Riverside, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Tulare, Ventura and Yuba. Additional counties will be added to the proclamation as warranted. To date, Governor Schwarzenegger has proclaimed a state of emergency for 18 counties.

Gov. Schwarzenegger today also requested that the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture (USDA) designate Fresno and Monterey disaster areas due to extended freezing weather that occurred beginning on January 11, 2007.

Fresno Disaster Area Letter pdf
Monterey Disaster Area letter pdf

"The damage will be devastating to affected producers, farm-related businesses and the general economy of the county," said Gov. Schwarzenegger in a letter to USDA Secretary Mike Johanns.

If the request by USDA is granted, farmers in the counties of Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Riverside, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Yolo and Yuba would be eligible for low interest loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses. For more information about the program, please visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov/emloan.htm>.

In the past week, Gov. Schwarzenegger asked the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to declare 20 counties disaster areas. This request was granted on January 24, 2007. To date, Governor Schwarzenegger has asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture to designate 20 counties disaster areas.

Attached are two letters sent today by the Governor. Any of the 18 previous requests to USDA for disaster declarations are available upon request.

A copy of the proclamation is below:

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS on January 12, 2007 I proclaimed a state of emergency because of the existence of conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property throughout the State of California due to extreme low temperatures and freezing conditions beginning January 11, 2007 and continuing; and

WHEREAS on January 16, 2007 I proclaimed a state of emergency in the counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, and Ventura based on the continuing effects of those conditions; and

WHEREAS on January 19, 2007 I proclaimed a state of emergency in the counties of Imperial, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Clara, Riverside, and Yuba based on the continuing effects of those same conditions; and

WHEREAS on January 20, 2007 I proclaimed a state of emergency in the county of Stanislaus based on the continuing effects of those same conditions; and

WHEREAS such conditions have continued in the county of El Dorado, where the record freezing temperatures caused damage to public infrastructure, buildings and equipment; ruptured critical water delivery pipes, flooding buildings and equipment; and, damaged citrus and other crops; and

WHEREAS the circumstances of this situation, by reason of their magnitude, are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, find that condition of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist in the County of El Dorado resulting from these severe freezing conditions, and under the authority of the California Emergency Services Act, set forth at Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 7 of the California Government Code, commencing with section 8550, I hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists in the County of El Dorado.

I HEREBY DIRECT that to ensure adequate resources and personnel are available to perform emergency response and recovery in all counties where I have proclaimed a State of Emergency:

1. All agencies of the state government to utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all necessary activities to alleviate this emergency as directed by my Office of Emergency Services and in accordance with the State Emergency Plan; and
2. Implementation of standing order number one to ensure adequate state staffing of response and recovery efforts.

I DIRECT that the Director of the Office of Emergency Services activate the California Disaster Assistance Act to provide supplemental financial support for local government.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 26th day of January 2007.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

Governor of California

ATTEST:

DEBRA BOWEN

Secretary of State